[1st November 1933

(b) As a measure of general retrenchment, the provision for educational grants and subsidies was reduced in 1931–32 and 1932–33 by 3½ and 2 per cent, respectively. This uniform cut was applied to the provision for teaching grants payable by District Educational Councils and in addition, the provision for night schools was also substantially reduced owing to the adoption of the policy of weeding out ill-conducted schools.

(c) Yes; applications for additional allotments had to be rejected for want of funds.

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"May I ask whether the Government are aware that owing to retrenchment in the allotments made to aided agencies, many of them which have been catering to the needs of the depressed classes have closed down?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I am not aware."

Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"May I know whether the Government will reconsider their decision and make further allotments during the current year?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I do not know what my hon. Friend means, but I may tell him that all the cuts have already been removed."

Mr. Mahmud Schamnad:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that there was delay in the sanctioning of the subsidy not only in the current year but also in previous years?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I want notice, Sir."

Salary of Malabar Board School teachers in arrears.

* 265 *Q.*—Mr. P. Madhusoodanan Thangal: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are in receipt of complaints from the board school teachers in Malabar regarding long-pending arrears of pay due to them by the several taluk boards;

(b) how many such complaints they have received and from which taluks;

(c) what the cause of the delay is in paying over to the taluk boards the voted grants in respect of them; and

(d) what steps the Government have taken to obviate the delay and alleviate the sufferings of the poor teachers?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Two; from the Ernad and Calicut Taluk Boards.

(c) & (d) The delay in the disbursement of voted subsidies to taluk boards in the current year is due to the fact that the particulars required for the correct distribution of

subsidies in the case of taluk boards which have been bifurcated or trifurcated were available only recently. The distribution of subsidies has since been sanctioned.

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—"May I know whether the Collector of Malabar had brought to the notice of the Government the misery endured by poor board school teachers and whether the Government would take steps to ensure that in future the salaries of teachers do not fall in arrears?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I am not aware of any such thing. I will look into the matter."

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—"May I ask when were these subsidies due and why there was this delay in disbursement?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not think any particular time is fixed for their disbursement. They are disbursed as quickly and as early as possible."

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—"May I know when was this bifurcation and trifurcation referred to in the question made?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I cannot give the dates off-hand. I should like to have notice."

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—"Sir, the hon. Minister has answered only the first part of my question. May I request him to answer the second part also, namely, whether the Government would take steps to see that in future the salaries of these teachers do not fall in arrears?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Yes, Sir; they have been taking steps and will take steps for that purpose."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD:—"May I know why there was so much delay in the disbursement of these grants even before the bifurcation and the trifurcation took place?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Was there any delay? But the question does not relate to that. I will look into the matter anyhow."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD:—"It is stated in the answer that there was some delay in the disbursement of the subsidies on account of the bifurcation and the trifurcation of the taluk boards. But there was delay even before the trifurcation and bifurcation took place. May I ask what that delay was due to?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not admit there was delay."